[0015] Further aspects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following drawings and detailed description intended to illustrate, but not to limit, the concepts of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0016] FIG. **1** illustrates a perspective view of a pain management kit generally containing the primary items necessary to perform a continuous nerve block;

[0017] FIG. **2** is an enlarged view of the pain management kit of FIG. **1** illustrating the protective cover in a partially opened position and exposing a peripheral lip of the outer container;

[0018] FIG. **3** is an exploded view of the pain management kit, including a sterile field tray and a main tray for holding certain items included in the kit;

[0019] FIG. **4** is a top view of the sterile field tray of FIG. **3** with its preferred contents exploded therefrom. A preferred positioning of the contents within the sterile field tray is illustrated in phantom;

[0020] FIG. **5** is a top view of the main tray of FIG. **3** with its contents in a preferred arrangement;

[0021] FIG. **6** is a side view of the main tray of FIG. **5**, illustrating certain internal features in phantom;

[0022] FIG. **7** is an illustration of an infusion system and catheter of the pain management kit of FIG. **1**;

[0023] FIG. **8** is an illustration of a portion of the nerve block procedure using medical supplies contained in the kit of FIG. **1**; and

[0024] FIG. **9** is an illustration of a subsequent portion of the nerve block procedure using medical supplies contained in the kit of FIG. **1**.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0025] The preferred embodiment of the pain management kit is illustrated in the context of a kit for use in performing a continuous nerve block such as, for example, but without limitation, an interscalene block, a lumbar plexus block or a femoral nerve block. However, as will be understood by those of skill in the art, the pain management kit can be used with other surgical procedures where it is desirable to provide sterile pain management medical supplies in a single package.

[0026] To assist in the description of the system and method of use disclosed herein, the following terms are used. The term "distal" refers to a site that is away from a specified site. The term "proximal" refers to a site that is close to a specified site. Expressed alternatively, a site termed "proximal" is measurably closer to a specified reference point than a site termed "distal." The term "downstream" refers to directional movement of the liquid drug from the infusion pump to the block site. An object or site referred to as "downstream" of another object or site means that the "downstream" object or site is proximal the block site relative to the other object or site. Similarly, an object or site referred to as "upstream" to another object or site means that the "upstream" object or site is proximal the infusion pump site relative to the other object or site. Expressed alternatively, the "downstream" object is proximal the block site and the "upstream" object is distal the block site.

[0027] The "block site" is the area within the body of the patient proximate the nerve bundle to be anesthetized. The "pierce site" is the site where the patient's skin is pierced to allow the epidural needle and, subsequently, the catheter to extend therethrough and arrive at the block site to administer the drug.

Description of the Pain Management Kit

[0028] With reference to FIGS. **1** and **2**, a preferred pain management kit, generally indicated by the reference numeral **10**, is illustrated. The contents of the kit **10** are contained within a relatively shallow, pan-shaped outer container **12**. The outer container **12** is preferably a thermoplastic material suitable for use in a sterile medical environment and is preferably manufactured into a desired shape by thermoforming. However, other suitable materials and processes may be used to manufacture the outer container **12**.

[0029] The outer container **12** includes a generally rectangular base and four side walls extending substantially normally upward therefrom. The side walls terminate in a peripheral lip **16** which defines a generally planar adhesive surface **18** and an integral, generally planar outer surface **20**, which is preferably disposed at a height below the adhesive surface **18**.

[0030] A protective cover **14**, generally sized to be flush with the lip **16** of the outer container **12**, is secured over the opening of the outer container **12**. The protective cover **14** secures, and keeps sterile, the contents of the pain management kit **10** within the space between the outer container **12** and the protective cover **14**. The protective cover **14** is preferably manufactured from a paper fiber material with a waterproof additive suitable for use in a sterile, medical environment. However, other suitable types of materials including, but not limited to, plastics or PVC may also be used in manufacturing the protective cover **14**.

[0031] The protective cover **14** is secured to the adhesive surface **18** of the outer container **12**, preferably with a nontoxic adhesive suitable for use in a sterile, medical environment. A desired adhesive would provide sufficient adhesive force to secure the protective cover **14** to the outer container **12** during storage and transport, while still allowing removal upon use without necessitating excessive removal force. Advantageously, a space is created between the outer surface **20** of the lip **16** and an edge portion **22** of the protective cover **14** to the outside of the adhesive surface **18**. This arrangement allows the user of the kit **10** to grasp the edge portion **22** of the cover **14** to facilitate its removal from the outer container **12**.

[0032] With reference to FIG. **3**, an exploded view of the pain management kit **10** is illustrated, with the protective cover **14** completely removed and the contents of the kit **10** removed therefrom.

[0033] Preferably, as packaged, a sterile wrap **23** is placed underneath the contents of the pain management kit **10**, inside the outer container **12**, and folded over to cover the contents of the kit **10** (FIG. **2**). The sterile wrap **23** is preferably of a generally square shape and sized appropriately such that, when folded, the wrap **23** covers the entire contents of the pain management kit **10** and overlaps itself. Preferably, as illustrated, the corners of the sterile wrap **23** are aligned with the sides of the outer container **12**. Each of the corners are folded over the contents of the kit **10** and toward the center of the outer container **12** to achieve the desired overlap of the sterile wrap **23** and substantially seal the contents of the pain management kit **10**. The sterile wrap **23** may then be taped to itself in order to maintain the folded position.

[0034] In addition to the outer container **12**, protective cover **14** and sterile wrap **23**, the kit **10** also includes a sterile